Remarks

The above claim amendments are presented in order to remove multiple claim dependency, so as to reduce the required filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Shoji YUYAMA et al.

By: on a Watth

Registration No. 33,142 Attorney for Applicants

CRW/jz Washington, D.C. Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 March 2, 2001



- 4. The medicine packing apparatus as in [any one of Claims 1-3] <u>Claim 1</u>, wherein when a blank package belt is discriminated by the discriminating means, the distributing means distribute the blank package belt toward a discharge position.
- 7. The medicine packing apparatus as in Claim 5 [or 6], wherein one of the arms of the gripping means has a press surface and wherein the moving means turns the gripping means so that the press portion presses the medicine package belt bound in the binding position to discharge it.